

Advisory Committee notes
January 23, 2006

Attendance: Laurie Palesotti, PJ Rezmerski, Tracy Koster, Pam Guerrero, Tracie Henning.

❖ **Tracy Koster – Consultant report**

- Fire Safety Workshop will be on February 6 in Marshall. Purchased 15 smoke detectors for give away using the funds received for the project. Flyer was distributed to members.
- Shared a success story about a deafblind gentleman living in a nursing home and moving to a group home where he has access to communication and services.
- Went to the Emergency Preparedness meeting for Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties, gave information on deaf and hard of hearing individuals and statistics.
- Will be attending the Watonwan/Faribault/Martin counties meeting on Wednesday to give the same information.
- Presentations
 - St. Clair
 - HeadStart (2)
 - Minnesota State University – Mankato (2)
- Still providing services to consumers as usual.
- Ice skating cross-cultural event will be held on January 27 and area deaf and hard of hearing children are invited to socialize. Flyer was distributed to members.
- GMAS presentation in Marshall on February 9 (flyer distributed).

❖ **Pam Guerrero- Interpreter report**

- Successful MRID Fall conference in October – approx 175 in attendance
- ASL Storytelling Time at Barnes and Noble successful – next one on February 18 with Jon Mowrey
- Interpreted for Miracle Worker with another free lance interpreter in November
- Shortage of interpreters still existent in Southern Minnesota. Discussed the ASCII and EIPA.

❖ **Tracie Henning – TED report**

- Still same as usual!
- Captel will start charging for long distance for Captel users.

❖ **PJ Rezmerski – MCDHH report**

- Larry Puthoff from CSD came to talk to the commission on how to improve services. One suggestion was to improve CSD-MN's webpage.
- MADC made a report from their legislative committee.
- MCDHH's budget was discussed – they have a budget of \$90,000 and would like to ask legislation for additional funds to support an interpreter position as well as an administrative assistant position.
- A precinct caucus training was held on Wednesday, January 18.
- Wendy DeVore gave a presentation on Community Solutions – Crime Prevention and Safety for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. She is seeking grant funds to provide awareness workshops/training and to establish a “contact center” should police officers, corrections, jail, prison, parole officers and probation officers encounter law breakers who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- PJ shared the results of the proposed work plan survey that was distributed to commission members – what the priorities are in each category (education, employment, access and public policy)

❖ **Next meeting – Monday, May 22, 2006 - 10:00 am**

NOTE TIME CHANGE

NOTE: We discussed having Advisory meetings immediately after MCDHH meetings. MCDHH meets four times a year, on the 3rd Friday in January, May, September and November.